

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A connector comprising a plurality of mutually juxtaposed contact modules, each of said contact modules comprising:

- an insulator;
- signal contacts held by said insulator;
- a first ground plate held by said insulator; and
- a second ground plate held by said insulator;

said first and second ground plates comprising:

- plate portions having first surface facing each other and second surfaces on the opposite sides of said first surfaces; and
- pairs of protrusions formed at intervals on said second surfaces of said plate portions;

said first and second ground plates being molded-in with said insulator so as to be integrated together;

said insulator having recesses corresponding to the intervals of said protrusions;

said signal contacts being disposed in said recesses.

Claim 2 (Original): The connector according to claim 1, wherein each of said protrusions protrudes from said plate portion so as to form a right angle with said second surface.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The connector according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein positions of the intervals between said protrusions are staggered between said first and second ground plates.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A connector according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein, in each of said first and second ground plates, said paired protrusions and a portion of said plate portion corresponding to said interval cooperatively define a generally U shape in section thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The connector according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second ground plates has at least one contact portion for connection to a ground plate included in a mating connector.

Claim 6 (Original): A connector comprising contact modules,
each of said contact modules comprising:

- a plurality of signal contacts;
- a first ground plate;
- a second ground plate; and
- an insulator;

each of said ground plates comprising at least one section-
generally-U-shaped portion;

said ground plates and said insulator being molded-in so as
to be formed integrally with each other such that said section-
generally-U-shaped portions face each other alternately at their
backs while face outside at their open portions; and

said signal contacts being assembled into said section-
generally-U-shaped portions, thereby constituting each of said
contact modules;

said connector being constituted by juxtaposing a plurality
of said contact modules in a housing.

Claim 7 (Original): The connector according to claim 6,
wherein:

said signal contacts are formed into units each of the two
signal contacts forming a differential pair and said two signal
contacts are arranged symmetrical to a center plane; and

said signal contacts are surrounded by said first ground
plate and said second ground plate in a lattice fashion on the
basis of said units each of the two signal contacts.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The connector according to claim 6 ~~or~~ 7, wherein at least one of said ground plates has at least one contact portion for connection to a ground plate of a mating connector.

Claim 9 (Original): The connector according to claim 8, wherein said contact portions are respectively provided at each two diagonal corners formed by said first ground plate and said second ground plate surrounding said units each of the two signal contacts in the lattice fashion.

Claim 10 (Original): The connector according to claim 8, wherein said contact portions are respectively provided at each four corners formed by said first ground plate and said second ground plate surrounding said units each of the two signal contacts in the lattice fashion.